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CIA Shrugged at Kampiles Plea For Covert Job, Spy Trial Told

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP) — A former CIA employee who is charged with selling a spy satellite manual to the Soviet Union tried to switch to the CIA's covert section, a government witness says.

George Joannides, a 28-year CIA veteran, was the only witness called in the first day of William P. Kampiles' trial. U.S. District Judge Phil McNagney adjourned the trial at mid-day to permit the 12 jurors and others to vote in yesterday's elections.

Kampiles, 23, of Munster is charged with selling the top-secret manual to a Russian agent in Greece for \$3,100. A federal grand jury indicted Kampiles in August on six counts of espionage and stealing government property.

The manual Kampiles is accused of selling deals with the KH-11, a photo reconnaissance satellite.

Kampiles, a 1975 Indiana University graduate, worked from March to November 1977 as a CIA watch officer receiving and relaying cable messages at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.

Joannides testified that Kampiles contacted him

in the spring of 1977 to enlist his help in transferring to the covert section of the agency.

Joannides said Kampiles expressed an interest in working in Greece because he could speak the language and had relatives there.

Kampiles was told he would need additional training and it would be mid-1978 before he could even be considered for such a post, Joannides said. Kampiles told Joannides he didn't want to stay with the CIA for that long in his post as watch officer, Joannides testified.

Joannides said Kampiles told him during a meeting in Washington in April 1978 that he had met two Russian men at a party in Athens in February and had decided to "play a game with the Russians."

Joannides testified that Kampiles said he was trying to establish himself as a good candidate for an undercover CIA employee by setting up contacts with the Soviets and supplying them with what he called "disinformation."